

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-49 in accordance with the following:

1. CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for processing physical distribution information, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving and registering schedule information, regarding one of a plurality of form forms of receiving ~~of~~ a package addressed to a member, from the member, the schedule information comprising at least one of the forms of receiving the package addressed to the member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period;

if a shipment request is received from a sender of a package, determining a delivery form with reference to at least the ~~receiver's~~ schedule information of the receiver registered in said receiving and registering ~~step if said the~~ receiver is a member; and

if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in said determining ~~step~~ involves a movement of ~~said the~~ package, generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with ~~said the~~ delivery form.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a ~~step of:~~

if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in said determining ~~step~~ involves a movement of the package, registering scheduled delivery information in ~~said receiver's~~ the schedule information of the receiver.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a ~~step of:~~

sending ~~said the~~ distributor, information regarding ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in ~~said determining-step~~ before starting to deliver ~~said the~~ package.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising-a ~~step-of:~~

receiving a delivery completion notice ~~including~~ comprising receiving status data from ~~said the~~ distributor.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising-a ~~step-of:~~

giving a predetermined point to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said the~~ receiving status data included in ~~said the~~ delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in ~~said the~~ delivery form.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising-a ~~step-of:~~

giving a predetermined point to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in ~~said determining-step~~ indicates that delivery to a home of ~~said the~~ receiver of ~~said the~~ package and ~~said the~~ receiving status data included in ~~said the~~ delivery completion notice ~~indicates~~ indicate that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in ~~said the~~ delivery form.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising-a ~~step-of:~~

receiving and registering information regarding a fixed delivery charge from ~~said the~~ distributor after ~~said the~~ package is received by ~~said the~~ distributor.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~there is a~~ ~~case where~~ ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as undeliverable in ~~said determining-step~~.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising-a ~~step-of:~~

sending ~~said the~~ sender a notice ~~including comprising~~ information regarding a deliverable date if ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining step.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining step.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said generating step, if ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining step, delivery request information addressed to ~~said the~~ distributor is generated by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for ~~said the~~ receiver in advance.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

receiving and registering information of a specified member from ~~said the~~ member, the specified member being different from the member, and

wherein, in said determining step, if ~~said the~~ receiver is not available for receiving and ~~said the~~ specified member is registered for ~~said the~~ receiver to receive the package on behalf of the receiver, ~~said the~~ schedule information for ~~said the~~ specified member is referenced.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

if a delivery request to a non-member, who is to receive the package, is received from a sender of a said package, registering information of ~~said the~~ non-member included in ~~said the~~ delivery request as provisional member information;

sending a member registration request to ~~said the~~ non-member; and

sending information registered as ~~said the~~ provisional member information to ~~said the~~ non-member if membership registration is requested from ~~said the~~ non-member.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said receiving and registering ~~step~~, schedule information regarding ~~a form~~ one of the forms of receiving ~~said the~~ package addressed to ~~said the~~ member is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from ~~said the~~ member.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said determining ~~step~~ comprises ~~a step of~~ sending a schedule input request to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said receiver's~~ the schedule information of the receiver indicates it the schedule information is not fixed.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said determining ~~step~~ comprises ~~a step of~~ sending ~~said the~~ sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for processing physical distribution ~~request requests~~, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

sending a central server a delivery request of a package, ~~said the~~ delivery request specifying at least a receiver; and

receiving a result notice of delivery scheduling, ~~including a case where it is indicated comprising information that said the~~ package is undeliverable, from ~~said the~~ central server that determined the delivery scheduling based on at least schedule information, which has been registered for the receiver and comprises a time range that is unavailable for receiving packages, before starting to deliver said the package.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program embodied on a medium, ~~for causing that controls~~ a computer to process physical distribution information, said program comprising a process of the steps of:

receiving schedule information, regarding one of a form plurality of forms of receiving of a package addressed to a member, from a terminal of the member, and registering ~~said the~~ schedule information in a storage device, the schedule information comprising at least one of the forms of receiving the package addressed to the member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period;

if a shipment request is received from a terminal of a sender of a package, determining a delivery form with reference to at least the ~~receiver's~~ schedule information of the receiver stored in ~~said the~~ storage device if ~~said the~~ receiver is a member; and

if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in said determining-step involves a movement of ~~said the~~ package, generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with ~~said the~~ delivery form.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a ~~step of~~:

if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in said determining-step involves a movement of the package, registering scheduled delivery information in ~~said receiver's~~ the schedule information of the receiver.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a ~~step of~~:

sending ~~said the~~ distributor information regarding ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in said determining-step before starting to deliver ~~said the~~ package.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a ~~step of~~:

receiving a delivery completion notice ~~including~~ comprising receiving status data from a computer of ~~said the~~ distributor.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 21, further comprising a ~~step of~~:

giving a predetermined point to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said the~~ receiving status data included in ~~said the~~ delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in ~~said the~~ delivery form.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 21, further comprising a ~~step of~~:

giving a predetermined point to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined in said determining ~~step~~ indicates that delivery to a home of ~~said the~~ receiver of ~~said the~~ package and ~~said the~~ receiving status data included in ~~said the~~ delivery completion notice ~~indicates~~ indicate that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in ~~said the~~ delivery form.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising ~~a step of:~~

receiving and registering information regarding a fixed delivery charge from a computer of ~~said the~~ distributor after ~~said the~~ package is received by ~~said the~~ distributor.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein ~~there is a case where~~ ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining ~~step~~.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising ~~a step of:~~

sending ~~said the~~ sender a notice ~~including comprising~~ information regarding a deliverable date if ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining ~~step~~.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising ~~a step of:~~

giving a predetermined point to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining ~~step~~.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein in said generating ~~step~~, if ~~said the~~ delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining ~~step~~, delivery request information addressed to ~~said the~~ distributor is generated by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for ~~said the~~ receiver in advance.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising ~~a step of:~~

receiving and registering information of a specified member from ~~said the~~ terminal of ~~said the~~ member, ~~the specified member being different from the member,~~ and

wherein, in said determining-step, if ~~said the~~ receiver is not available for receiving and ~~said the~~ specified member is registered for ~~said the~~ receiver to receive the package on behalf of the receiver, ~~said the~~ schedule information for ~~said the~~ specified member is referenced.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

if a delivery request to a non-member, who is to receive the package, is received from a terminal of a the sender of a package, registering information of ~~said the~~ non-member included in ~~said the~~ delivery request as provisional member information;

sending a member registration request to ~~said the~~ non-member; and

sending information registered as ~~said the~~ provisional member information to a terminal of ~~said the~~ non-member if membership registration is requested from ~~said the~~ terminal of ~~said the~~ non-member.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein in said receiving and registering-step, schedule information regarding ~~a form~~ one of the forms of receiving ~~said the~~ package addressed to ~~said the~~ member is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from ~~said the~~ terminal of ~~said the~~ member.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein said determining-step comprises ~~a step of~~ sending a schedule input request to ~~said the~~ receiver if ~~said receiver's~~ the schedule information pf the receiver indicates ~~it~~ the schedule information is not fixed.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The program as set forth in claim 31, wherein said determining-step comprises ~~a step of~~ sending ~~said the~~ sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for processing physical distribution information, comprising:

a schedule register, which receives and registers schedule information regarding one of a-form plurality of forms of receiving-~~of~~ a package addressed to a member from a terminal of the member, the schedule information comprising at least one of the forms of receiving the package addressed to the member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period;

a determining unit, which determines a delivery form with reference to at least the receiver's schedule information of the receiver registered by said schedule register if ~~said the~~ receiver is a member, if a shipment request is received from a terminal of a sender of a package; and

a delivery request generator, which generates delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with ~~said the~~ delivery form if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined by said determining unit involves a movement of ~~said the~~ package.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a second register, which registers scheduled delivery information in ~~said receiver's the~~ schedule information of the receiver if ~~said the~~ delivery form determined by said determining unit involves a movement of the package.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a transmitter, which sends ~~said the~~ distributor information regarding ~~said the~~ delivery form determined by said determining unit before starting to deliver ~~said the~~ package.

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a receiving unit, which receives a delivery completion notice ~~including comprising~~ receiving status data from a computer of ~~said the~~ distributor.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 37, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to ~~said~~ the receiver if ~~said~~ the receiving status data included in ~~said~~ the delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in ~~said~~ the delivery form.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 37, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to ~~said~~ the receiver if ~~said~~ the delivery form determined by said determining unit indicates that delivery to a home of ~~said~~ the receiver of ~~said~~ the package and ~~said~~ the receiving status data included in ~~said~~ the delivery completion notice indicates that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in ~~said~~ the delivery form.

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a ~~second~~ receiving unit, which receives and registers information regarding a fixed delivery charge from a computer of ~~said~~ the distributor after ~~said~~ the package is received by ~~said~~ the distributor.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein ~~there is a case where~~ ~~said~~ the delivery form is determined as undeliverable by said determining unit.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:


a ~~second~~ transmitter, which sends ~~said~~ the sender a notice ~~including~~ comprising information regarding a deliverable date if ~~said~~ the delivery form is determined as undeliverable by said determining unit.

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to ~~said~~ the receiver if ~~said~~ the delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping by said determining unit.

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein, if ~~said~~ the delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping by said determining unit, said delivery request generator generates delivery request information addressed to ~~said-the~~ distributor by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for ~~said-the~~ receiver in advance.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

 a ~~third~~ receiving unit, which receives and registers information of a specified member from ~~said the~~ terminal of ~~said the~~ member, the specified member being different from the member, and

wherein, if ~~said the~~ receiver is not available for receiving and ~~said the~~ specified member is registered for ~~said the~~ receiver to receive the package on behalf of the receiver, said determining unit references ~~said the~~ schedule information for ~~said the~~ specified member.


46. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

means for registering information of a non-member, who is to receive the package, included in a delivery request to ~~said the~~ non-member as provisional member information if ~~said the~~ delivery request to ~~said the~~ non-member is received from a terminal of a sender of a the package;

a ~~third~~ transmitter, which sends a member registration request to ~~said the~~ non-member; and

a ~~fourth~~ transmitter, which sends information registered as ~~said the~~ provisional member information to a terminal of ~~said the~~ non-member if membership registration is requested from ~~said the~~ terminal of ~~said the~~ non-member.

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as set forth in claim 34, wherein said schedule register receives schedule information regarding ~~a form~~ one of the forms of receiving ~~said the~~ package addressed to ~~said the~~ member as a predetermined template selection instruction from ~~said the~~ terminal of ~~said the~~ member.



48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said determining unit comprises a ~~fifth~~ transmitter, which sends a schedule input request to ~~said~~ the receiver if ~~said receiver's~~ the schedule information of the receiver indicates ~~it~~ the schedule information is not fixed.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said determining unit comprises a ~~sixth~~ transmitter, which sends ~~said~~ the sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.
